

# 7 Present Simple (I work) or Present Continuous (I'm working)

## 1 Compare the Present Simple and the Present Continuous:

### Present Simple

We use the Present Simple to talk about 'regular' or 'usual' things:

*She **works** in a school. She's a teacher.*

*Jane **speaks** French and Spanish.*

*I **go** to the cinema every week.*



*It **rains** a lot in March.*



*Usually, I **play** tennis.....*

Joe: *What **does** Tom **do**?*

Sue: *He's a doctor.*

### Present Continuous

We use the Present Continuous for things that are happening now ('temporary' things):

*My brother **is working** in Paris this month.*

*Tom **is speaking** on the phone at the moment.*

Pete: *Where **are** you **going**?*

Mary: *I'm **going** to the supermarket.*



*It's **raining** now!*



*but today I'm **playing** golf.*

Bill: *What's Tom **doing** this week?*

Sara: *He's **skiing** in Switzerland.*

## 2 We do not usually use these verbs in the Present Continuous:

like	hate	love	want	think (= believe)
know	mean	remember	understand	

Tom: *Do you **like** this book?* (Not ~~*Are you liking this book?*~~)

Pam: *Yes, I **think** it's good.* (Not ~~*Yes, I'm thinking it's good.*~~)

## Practice

### A Put the words in brackets in the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

- Peter: What are you doing (you/do)?
- John: I                      (finish) my homework.
- Steve: How                      (your sister/travel) to work every day?
- Mary: She                      (take) the bus.
- Paul: What                      (you/eat)?
- Jill: An apple. It's delicious! I                      (love) apples.
- Carlos: Look! It                      (snow).
- Hans: It                      (snow) every year in my country.
- Sheila: What                      (Joanna/do)?
- Bill: I                      (think) she's an actress, but she                      (work) in a restaurant this month.

**B This is Anna's first letter in English to David. There are some mistakes. Rewrite wrong verb forms. Put a tick (✓) if the verb form is correct.**

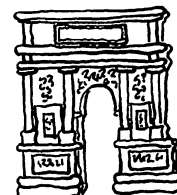
Dear David,

I **live** <sup>0</sup> ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ in a large flat in Rome. I'm **having**  
<sup>0</sup> **have** \_\_\_\_\_ two sisters. They are called Rosa and Maria. We  
**are getting up** <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at seven o'clock every morning,  
and we **have** <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ coffee and a small breakfast. I **leave**  
<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the flat at eight and walk to the university. I **am**  
**finishing** <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ classes at five every day, and I **arrive**  
<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ home at six. This month I **work**  
<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ very hard for my first exams.

At the moment, I **eat** <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast in the kitchen of  
our flat, my mother **drinks** <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ coffee, and my sisters  
**are reading** <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ magazines.

On Saturday afternoons I **am playing** <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ tennis  
with my friends, or I **go** <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema. Today, I'm  
going to see a new English film. Sometimes I **am watching**  
<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ American films on TV, but I'm **not**  
**understanding** <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the words! **Are you liking**  
<sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ films?

Please write to me soon.  
With best wishes,  
Anna



**C Write sentences. Use the Present Simple or the Present Continuous.**

0 (Usually she/work/at the office, but this week she/work/at home)  
Usually she works at the office, but this week she's working at home.

1 (You/not/eat/very much at the moment. Are you ill?)  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 (She/know/three words in Italian!)  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 (I/take/the bus to work this week, but usually I/walk)  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 (I/study/Japanese this year. It's very difficult.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

5 (you/watch/the television at the moment?)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 (I/not/remember/the name of the hotel)  
\_\_\_\_\_

7 (She/speak/three languages)  
\_\_\_\_\_

8 (The sun/shine/. It's a beautiful day!)  
\_\_\_\_\_